

can tell you that I am fiercely proud of these men," Knight said, at a Tuesday afternoon press conference. "I'm here to tell you they're heroes."

The officers entered the smoke and fire-filled building to get people out, experiencing "conditions we can't imagine," Knight said.

In one case, the officers saw a hand reach out from the darkness for help. The officers shouted at occupants to walk toward their flashlights. For one brief moment the officers lost each other in the smoke, Knight said. "They had to crawl and shout and came upon people by feel," Knight said.

Bandas, and his fiancée Jackie Gallipo, woke to the sound of smoke alarms. Their apartment was so full of smoke, Bandas said he couldn't see a television across the room.

He headed out the door of his third-floor apartment, thinking Gallipo was right behind him. "I couldn't see a damn thing," Bandas said. He felt his way out of the building by following stair railings. A police officer pulled him out the door. "All I could do was gasp for air," he said. Emergency crews gave him oxygen.

Meanwhile, Gallipo popped out a screen and jumped out a third-story window, into the arms of two awaiting police officers. "I'm just glad everyone got out," Bandas said.

"We thought someone's (clock) alarm was going off at first," said Al Knadel. Knadel and his girlfriend, Missy Schumacher, threw on shoes and jackets and headed for the door. By the time they left, flames were coming from under one of their apartment's doors.

"We just moved in a week ago," Knadel said. "Time to pack everything up and start at square one again."

Tuesday morning Bill and Virginia Standke, volunteers with the American Red Cross of Carver County, were helping the residents find temporary places to stay, and finding out what clothes and other supplies residents needed.

Firefighters from Chaska, Chanhassen, Shakopee, Victoria and Carver all fought the fire.

Chaska's last apartment building fire, on Jan. 15, 2000 at 123 W. 2nd Street in downtown Chaska, left 11 people homeless. There were no fatalities in the 2nd Street blaze. The historic 1891 F. Hammer building, made of Chaska brick, as since been repaired.●

TRIBUTE TO ED JOHNSON

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, this past Monday, the Ohio agriculture community lost a dear friend with the passing of Ed Johnson. He was not only a friend of mine, he was a wonderful human being.

Ed Johnson grew up on a dairy farm in Fairfield County, Ohio. From the time he was a young boy, Ed realized that the only way to get ahead in life was through honest, hard work. This philosophy translated itself into a tremendous work ethic, which, combined with his robust energy and love for farming, made Ed an enthusiastic and well-regarded spokesman for Ohio farmers.

With a background in agricultural economics and agricultural education, Ed started out his professional life as a teacher before joining the Ohio Farm Bureau as Organizational Director for

Fairfield, Pickaway and Ross Counties. He worked hard on behalf of "his" farmers and was a great source of agricultural information for both farmers and non-farmers alike. It was while he served at Ohio Farm Bureau that he discovered he had a real knack for radio, reporting on Farm Bureau events, then sporting events and farm market news.

Ed, it seems, had found his niche. He took his love of farming, combined it with his communication skills, and became a true media entrepreneur. He assumed the risk of starting up his own radio network, ABN, Agri Broadcasting Network, and developed a multi-state service to small stations by delivering market news and covering agricultural events. It wasn't long before Ed became an accomplished radio personality. As his success grew, he developed an early industry service of up-linking and down-linking sporting events for major radio, WBNS Columbus being one such station.

Ed also branched out into television, hosting his own weekly morning show, Agri Country, which aired in Ohio and three other states. With Ed at the helm, Agri Country has been popular to both farming and non-farming audiences since 1982.

In addition to his radio and television work, Ed advanced agriculture with "Ohio's Country Journal," a monthly publication that, even though it struggled for its first few years, has blossomed as readership numbers shot up. It is now "the" farm publication for Ohio's agriculture.

Ed's great contributions to agricultural media were surpassed only by his humanitarian giving in terms of his leadership and his time. His unselfish dedication to further the causes of his alma mater, the Ohio State University, the 4-H Foundation, the Future Farmers of America, and all Ohio farmers for that matter, were unparalleled.

Ed's personal caring and concern for society and his fellow man made him an outstanding communicator. Ed could talk with anyone—rich man or poor man; farm hand or a nation's president—he had an uncanny ability to put anyone he talked to totally at ease.

Throughout the years, I came to rely on Ed's knowledge of Ohio agriculture and his viewpoint on the agricultural situation throughout the state of Ohio. I appreciated his tireless efforts to promote agribusiness both within the state and nationwide.

Because of Ed's contribution to agriculture in the State of Ohio, I was pleased to induct him into Ohio's Agriculture Hall of Fame in 1997. On that occasion, I said "I don't think there's anyone in the state who is more readily identifiable with agriculture by the average person than Ed." Indeed.

I've often said that it's not the number of years that one lives, but what

one does with those years that counts. In his sixty-three years, Ed lived his life to the fullest, and in so doing, touched the lives of countless individuals. Ed took risks, celebrated his successes and learned from his defeats, and, through it all, Ed never lost his focus, his positive attitude, nor his ever-present grin. There is no one comparable, and the void his loss has created in Ohio will not soon be filled.

Ed Johnson has been taken from us too early, and I will miss him. It is my hope that his wife, Marilyn, his children, Julie and Bart, his foster daughter Julie, his grandchildren—Adam, Eric, Nathan, Sarah, Elizabeth, Gage and Lauren—his brothers and sister and his entire family will take comfort in the knowledge that Ed is with our Father in Heaven.●

TRIBUTE TO PAUL NASH

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor Paul Nash. Paul has been a highly-valued member of my legislative staff for more than 4 years, and I wanted to take this opportunity to publicly thank him for all his years of hard work and dedication to the people of South Dakota. Paul will no longer be working on my staff after next week, and I, along with my entire staff, will miss his contributions greatly.

Paul was one of the original members of my Senate staff when I began serving in this body in January of 1997. Paul has worked on a number of issues in my office, and for the past several years has been my legislative assistant responsible for staffing my Banking Committee assignment, as well as taxes, telecommunications, campaign finance reform, government employees and labor issues. Paul has been an instrumental part of some of my key legislative accomplishments since I have had the honor of serving in the Senate, including passage of the Johnson amendment to the Financial Services Modernization Act, and legislation to provide access to local television stations for rural satellite owners. Paul has also been actively involved in helping to produce bipartisan legislation in the past Congress and at the start of this Congress to reauthorize the Export Administration Act. His efforts have earned him the respect of many people he has worked with, including other Senators and staff of the Banking Committee.

Paul has also worked closely with members of the South Dakota financial services community, and I know he will be missed by them as well. Paul's efforts on telecommunication issues for rural America, as well as his hard work on many other issues, such as campaign finance reform and tax policy have also been important contributions to my legislative efforts of the past 4 years. He has been a true public